

Dear Becky,

For almost 20 years, Norm's been putting out the story that a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout came together 40 years after Heart Mountain to produce Senate passage for the Japanese American redress bill. The Scouting story has been taken as a foreordained secular miracle, one so fitting and possessed of so much charm, that it has needed no factual basis. It has none. The one-time Boy Scout Alan Simpson cannot name a single Senator he persuaded to vote for S.1009.

As Dan Inouye said shortly before his death, "The man who should take nearly all of the credit for Senate passage of the redress bill is Sen. Sparky Matsunaga. He is the one who sponsored the bill and organized the vote on that in the Senate. If Sen. Matsunaga's efforts were to be weighted at 10, mine would be one."

Any credence given to Mineta and Simpson's Scouting story by Brokaw or anyone else dishonors Sparky's legacy and the truth of what a Japanese American senator did for the Japanese American community.

I speak for Sparky Matsunaga, dead since 1992.

Grant

Dear all,

Below crwhitney is Craig Whitney, a former Assistant Managing Editor, page one editor of the NY Times, and a friend of Jim Dao of dao@nytimes.com, who is the current op ed editor of the Times. Craig is a college classmate of mine and a longtime friend.

Grant

-----Original Message-----

From: crwhitney65 <crwhitney65@gmail.com>

To: Grant Ujifusa <captain129@aol.com>

Sent: Sat, Aug 12, 2017 4:15 pm

Subject: Re: Brokaw on Simpson and Mineta

Boy, they can't get anything right! Best
Craig

----- Original message -----

From: Grant Ujifusa <captain129@aol.com>

Date: 8/12/17 2:36 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: dao@nytimes.com, crwhitney65@gmail.com

Subject: Brokaw on Simpson and Mineta

To The Editor:

Re: "Bridging Barbed Wire and Politics"

Tom Brokaw's heartwarming tribute to Alan Simpson and Norman Mineta, boyhood friends, asserts they worked together to pass the Japanese American redress bill in 1988. But when it reached the Senate floor, Simpson voted for an amendment offered by Jesse Helms to strip all of the monetary reparations out of the legislation, gutting it, with Simpson saying in a floor speech that "the money sticks in my craw." For eye-witness Dan Inouye, Senate passage with a 69-vote majority was almost entirely the work of Spark Matsunaga, who worked three intense years to create the kind of real bi-partisan support Brokaw admires.

Credit for House passage belongs to Congressmen Mineta, Robert Matsui, and Barney Frank, but Brokaw mistakenly asserts that Mineta was key to bringing the planes down on 9/11. The sole person responsible, the 9/11 Commission found, was a mid-level career civil servant named Ben Sliney. In fact, the Commission found Mineta's testimony taking credit for Sliney's action "untruthful" and chose not to include the words of a sitting Transportation Secretary in its *Final Report*.

Grant Ujifusa
Chappaqua, New York

Redress Strategy Chair
Japanese American Citizens League

Founding Editor
The Almanac of American Politics

[Tom Brokaw: Friends Across Barbed Wire and Politics - The New York ...](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/11/.../brokaw-norman-mineta-alan-simpson.html)
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/11/.../brokaw-norman-mineta-alan-simpson.html>

[SPARKY MATSUNAGA: NO CUB SCOUT, NO BOY SCOUT](#)

[Real Heroes, Fake Stories - The New York Times](#)

www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/opinion/14farmer.html

[Norman Mineta - 911myths](#)

www.911myths.com/index.php?title=Norman_Mineta

White House logs show that Mineta didn't get to the White House until after 10:00, but the planes were ordered down by Sliney around 9:45 after the Pentagon was hit. By the time he arrived at the WH, Sliney had nearly all the planes down. Mineta's saying he was at the White House before he was, was picked up by Alex Jones as evidence that Bush and Cheney were behind 9/11. A tangled web here.

[9/11 Debunked: Norman Mineta - No Stand Down Order - YouTube](#)

▶ 3:56

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSWbym91A3w>

[Norman Mineta Confirms His Testimony with Members ... - Jones Report](#)

www.jonesreport.com/articles/260607_mineta.html